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ICR News 2011

Completion of Seismic Retrofit for the Main Building in Uji Campus



Main Building of Uji Campus

■ Prof WATANABE, Hiroshi (Vice-Director of ICR)

The main building in Uji Campus, where many (~ 70%) research divisions of the Institute for Chemical Research (ICR) are accommodated, was constructed in 1968. As this building did not meet the current quake-resistance standards (and had aged significantly), a seismic retrofit was urgently required. Thus, the institutes/departments in Uji campus cooperated to negotiate with the university executive office and an extensive seismic retrofit was made during the period of 2007-2010. A budget shortfall from the executive office was overcome by, for example, minimization of the move/evacuation of laboratories during this period, leading to the satisfactory completion of the enterprise. This retrofit not only allowed the main building to meet the quake-resistance standards but also resulted in improvements of the facilities in Uji campus through

centralization of the radioisotope laboratories, redesigning of the Uji library, and introduction of new common spaces in the campus (such as a relaxation room for women, shower booths, and so on). Furthermore, on the occasion of the retrofit, ICR spent its own budget to increase the laboratory area and upgrade the research facilities. In particular, new research laboratories equipped with advanced instruments, *e.g.*, 800 MHz NMR, have been assigned as open laboratories of the ICR Joint Usage/Research Center (ICR-JURC) approved by MEXT as of 2010, thereby serving as a strong base for enhanced collaboration between ICR and other universities/research institutes as well as among the ICR faculty members. Thus, the effort of ICR for the seismic retrofit was rewarded by many infrastructure improvements to the facilities at ICR.



Uji Radioisotope Laboratory



Uji Library



800 MHz NMR



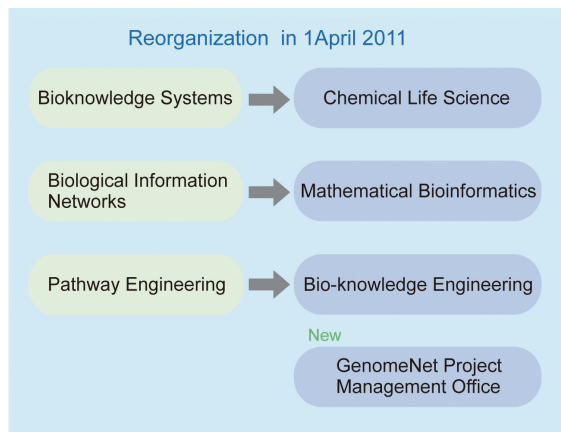
Relaxation Room for Women

Bioinformatics Center's New Restructuring and 10 Year Anniversary Symposium

In April 2011, 10 years after the establishment, the Bioinformatics Center in the Institute for Chemical Research (ICR) conducted organizational restructuring resulting in the creation of three new laboratories, named, Chemical Life Science, Mathematical Bioinformatics and Bio-knowledge Engineering. Additionally, an administrative office has been created called the GenomeNet project management office which will be responsible for maintaining the high-end supercomputers in ICR and continuation of the GenomeNet database service. Furthermore, as a celebration of the 10 year anniversary of the Bioinformatics Center, on the 29th of August 2011, a symposium named "ICR Symposium to Celebrate the Bioinformatics Center's 10 Year Anniversary and Restructuring" was held, having invited nine outstandingly working researchers in Bioinformatics for speakers and received more than 30 submissions for poster presentations. The main objective of the symposium was to have a view to future directions with our newly restructured center.

■ <http://www.bic.kyoto-u.ac.jp/pathway/bic10years/> (for details of the symposium)

■ Prof MAMITSUKA, Hiroshi
(Director of Bioinformatics Center)



New Organization of Bioinformatics Center



Participants of 10 Year Anniversary Symposium



Lecture of Prof KANEHISA, Minoru



Symposium in Kihada Hall, Uji Obaku Plaza



Poster Session

Inauguration of ICR Program Supporting Research Stay of Young Researchers at/from Oversea Institutes

■ Prof WATANABE, Hiroshi (Vice-Director of ICR)

In September 2011, the Institute for Chemical Research (ICR) inaugurated its own program that supports, both financially and academically, the research stay of young researchers of ICR (including graduate students) at overseas institutes and the stay at ICR for young researchers from overseas institutes, for periods of 2-12 weeks and 3-12 weeks, respectively. This program calls for/adopts the application on a quarterly basis and further accepts occasional applications on urgency, thereby offering very flexible/agile opportunities not available in other programs so far.

This ICR program is applied mainly to the research stay at/from overseas institutes that have concluded the Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) for international collaboration with ICR (currently 54 institutes), but also welcomes the stay at/from other overseas institutes. Within 3 months after the start of the program, it has already supported six young researchers of ICR and one from Europe. The program will continue to actively support young researchers in coming fiscal years.